

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SNM-02 OMB-01 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 CU-02

ACDA-07 MC-02 HEW-04 AID-05 OES-06 /107 W

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R 210929Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2323

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 3213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SNAR, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #37, SEPTEMBER 14-21

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1. COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUES (CONF)
THE COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUED WITH SESSIONS SEPTEMBER 15 AND 20. AS WITH
OPENING PROCEEDINGS SEPTEMBER 10, THE
COURT MET IN INSEIN JAIL UNDER TIGHT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS;
BUT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15 AND 20 SESSIONS, IN ADDITION TO
JOURNALISTS, LAWYERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE ACCUSED
WERE ALSO PRESENT.

CHARGES AGAINST TWO OF THE ACCUSED (CAPTAINS SAN KYI
AND TUN KYAW) WERE WITHDRAWN BECAUSE OF THEIR AGREEMENT TO
ACT AS PROSECUTION WITNESSES.

THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO DEVELOP AT THE TRIAL
THUS FOR ARE THE REQUEST OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS FOR ACCESS TO
CONFESSIONS MADE BY FOUR OF THE ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS, AND A
REQUEST BY GEN. TIN OO FOR BAIL BECAUSE OF HIS FORMER RECORD,
BECAUSE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FACING HIM IS SEVEN YEARS
IMPRISONMENT, AND BECAUSE HE IS SUFFERING FROM PHLEBITIS.
BOTH REQUESTS WERE OPPOSED BY THE PROSECUTION, AND THE
JUDGES HAVE NOT YET MADE A DECISION.

COMMENT: IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT GUILTY VERDICTS
FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WERE REACHED BEFORE THE TRIAL
BEGAN. ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR THE STATE TO MAKE AS CON-
VINING A CASE AS IT CAN AND TO ANNOUNCE THE PUNISHMENTS
IMPOSED. HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF THE SLOW PACE THUS FAR
END OF MAJOR TRIALS IN THE PAST, THE PROCEEDINGS MAY WELL
DRAG ON FOR SOME TIME.

2. BSPP PURGE UNDERWAY (CONF)
A BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY (BASPP) PURGE OF SUB-
STANTIAL MAGNITUDE SEEMS TO BE DEVELOPING. IT IS APPARENTLY
DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST CORRUPTION AND OTHER TYPES OF
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MALFEASANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME INDICATIONS IT MAY
ALSO INVOLVE SUSPECTED BCP SYMPATHIZERS.

THE PURGE IS APPARENTLY COUNTRYWIDE IN SCOPE. PARTY
MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN DISMISSED, OR ARE REPORTEDLY ABOUT
TO BE, NUMBER AT LEAST SEVERAL HUNDRED, PERHAPS SEVERAL
THOUSAND. A GUB OFFICIAL TOLD CONSUL MANDALAY THAT SOME
2000 WOULD BE PURGED IN MANDALAY DIVISION, AND REPORTS

WE HAVE HEARD IN RANGOON ALSO INDICATE OVERALL NUMBERS ARE HIGH. THOSE INVOLVED SEEM TO BE PRIMARILY LOWER AND MIDDLE LEVEL PERSONNEL, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF WARD AND TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S COUNCILS, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND EMPLOYEES OF VARIOUS STATE ENTERPRISES. HOWEVER, A FEW FAIRLY SENIOR LEVEL BSPP FUNCTIONARIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL HAVE ALSO LOST THEIR PARTY MEMBERSHIP AND JOBS. (ALTHOUGH NOT ALL WHO LOSE PARTY MEMBERSHIP WILL NECESSARILY ALSO LOSE THEIR JOBS, MANY PROBABLY WILL, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE'S COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF.)

COMMENT: WE ARE NOT YET SURE ABOUT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PURGE OR THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND IT. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST SOME PARTY MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED DISMISSAL NOTICES AND FURTHER DISMISSALS ARE WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE IMMINENT. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE CONFUSION THUS ENGENDERED IS BEGINNING TO IMPAIR THE FUNCTIONING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHERE DECISION-MAKING HAS SLOWED TO ALMOST A DEAD STOP; CONSUL MANDALAY HAS ALSO REPORTED THIS PROBLEM DEVELOPING IN MANDALAY'S FOUR WARDS.

3. NARCOTICS: HELICOTPER FLYING HOURS (LOU)

TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF HELI-ORIENT COMPANY FROM SINGAPORE VISITED RANGOON FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH BURMA AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ABOUT THE COMPANY'S CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SPARE PARTS FOR THE BAF'S U.S.-PROVIDED BELL HELICOPTERS. THEY REPORTED THAT THE BAF IS HAVING NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH SPARE PARTS SUPPLY. THEY ALSO REPORTED THAT THE TOTAL FLYING HOURS FOR THE 12 HELICOPTERS ARE IN EXCESS OF 2000 AND THE MOST EXTENSIVELY FLOWN HELICOPTER HAS FLOWN 400 HOURS. THEY TERMED THE BAF "TECHNICALLY VERY INDEPENDENT AND CAPABLE" IN MAINTAINING THE HELICOPTERS.

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4. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNCL)
THE LOCAL PRESS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF FOUR NARCOTICS
SUPPRESSION ACTIONS CONDUCTED BY POLICY, PEOPLE'S COUNCIL
MEMBERS AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. IN THE MANDALAY DISTRICT
ONE KILOGRAM OF HEROIN WAS SEIZED IN A POLICE RAID; 31
KILOGRAMS WERE SEIZED IN THE MON STATE; 13 OUNCES OF
HEROIN WAS SEIZED AT MINGALADON AIRPORT DURING THE CUSTOMS
SEARCH OF ARRIVING PASSENGERS FROM TAUNGGYI; AND ALMOST
10 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM WAS SEIZED ABOARD THE LASHIO-MANDALAY
TRAIN WHEN THE AUTHORITIES CONDUCTED A SEARCH OF THE MAIL
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CAR. EIGHT PERSONS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AS A RESULT
OF THESE FOUR SUCCESSFUL ACTIONS.

5. NEW ENVOYS TO, FROM AUSTRIA, EEC (UNCL)
THE GUB HAS GIVEN AGREEMENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. KARL
PETERLIK AS AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA. HE WILL BE RESIDENT IN
BANGKOK. THE GUB ALSO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS
AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG, U CHIT MAUNG, TO BE CONCURRENTLY
AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AND TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

6. CO-OP DELEGATION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA (UNCL)
A GUB DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COOPERA-
TIVES U THEIN HTOO RETURNED FROM A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA WHERE IT STUDIED THE WORK OF COOPERATIVES AT THE
INVITATION OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT.

7. DELEGATES, STUDENTS TO INDIA (UNCL)

A GUB DELEGATION ATTENDED THE HIMALYAN GEOLOGY SEMINAR AT NEW DELHI SEPTEMBER 13-17; A HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL DEPARTED FOR SIX MONTHS OF TRAINING IN INDIA UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN; AND A RANGOON UNIVERSITY LECTURER IS STUDYING MICROFILMING OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO BURMESE HISTORY AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN NEW DELHI UNDER THE INDIAN TECHNICAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION PROGRAM.

8. FIRST OTTER ARRIVES (UNCL)

THE FIRST OF THREE DRC-6 TWIN OTTERS ORDERED FROM CANADA BY BURMA AIRWAYS CORP. UNDER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST FEBRUARY ARRIVED IN RANGOON ON SEPTEMBER 19. TWO ADDITIONAL OTTERS ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY. EACH AIRCRAFT COSTS NEARLY \$1 MILLION. THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH TWIN PROP ENGINES AND CAN CARRY 20 PASSENGERS. IN ADDITION CANADA RECENTLY AGREED TO SUPPLY ANOTHER BATCH OF SIX TWIN OTTERS (WEEKA #35, ITEM 2) AND DELIVERY IS EXPECTED TO BE CONTINUOUS. THESE PLANES WILL BE USED ON FEEDER ROUTES REPLACING DC-3'S IN BURMA'S DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE.

9. ENCEPHALITIS CONTROL PROGRAM LAUNCHED (UNCL)

THE BURMESE HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ANEW PROGRAM TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS. FIRST DISCOVERED TWO YEARS AGO IN TACHILCK, THIS SERIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE HAS SPREAD STEADILY WESTWARD. NO DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED PLAN HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, EXCEPT THAT IT WILL INVOLVE "THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE WORKING PEOPLE."

COMMENT: KILLING MOSQUITOES AND THEIR LARVAE WOULD PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE, BUT SHORTAGES OF INSECTICIDES AND LACK OF GUB CONTROL OVER INFECTED AREAS MAKES IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL PROGRAM QUESTIONABLE.

10. GUIDELINES LAID OUT FOR JOURNALISTS AND PUBLICATIONS (UNC)

INFORMATION MINISTER U LWIN HAS DRAWN UP GUIDELINES FOR LITERARY AND JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES IN CONSONANCE WITH BSPP POLICY ON LITERATURE AND JOURNALISM AND PRESENTED THEM TO EDITORS, JOURNALISTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPRINTS OF THE SEVEN POLICY POINTS. GUIDELINES ARE EVEN MORE EXTENSIVE AND EXPLICIT THAN THE RECENT NINE POINTS OF GUIDANCE GIVEN TO MOTION PICTURE PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH THEY COVER THE SAME GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF BUILDING SOCIALISM, PREVENTION OF DECADENT LITERATURE, PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL CULTURE, THE BUILDING OF NATIONAL UNITY, ETC. THE PROVISION OF STRICT GUIDELINES FURTHER

TIGHTENS THE MINISTER'S CONTROL OVER THE MEDIA AND
FURTHER CENTRALIZES HIS AUTHORITY.
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